

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to cancel Claims 1- 11 and add new Claims 12 - 23 as follows, this listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 - 11 (Canceled)

12. (New) A linear drive device comprising:
an excitation winding producing a variable magnetic field and including an associated magnetic-flux-carrying yoke body having pole surfaces; and
an armature body including a magnet carrier having at least two permanent magnet parts and an axial oscillation movement being transferable to the at least two permanent magnet parts by the variable magnetic field of the excitation winding, the magnet carrier including an electrically insulating material and at least partially extending into the magnetic field area defined by the pole surfaces of the yoke body and the excitation winding.
13. (New) The device according to claim 12, wherein the magnet carrier consists entirely of an insulating material.
14. (New) The device according to claim 12, wherein the magnet carrier includes a metal material and the parts of the magnet carrier which extend into the magnetic field area of the yoke body and the excitation winding are constructed of an insulating material.
15. (New) The device according to claim 12, wherein each magnet part with respect to the associated yoke body and the excitation winding is covered by a magnetic cover made of a ferromagnetic layer, a spacing joint axially spacing apart the magnetic covers.

16. (New) The device according to claim 15, wherein the ferromagnetic magnet covers are spaced apart from one another by a distance $a > 2s$, where s is the distance of the magnet covers from the respective pole surface of the associated yoke body.

17. (New) The device according to claim 15, wherein each magnet cover covers a larger area than the respectively associated magnet part.

18. (New) The device according to claim 15, wherein the magnet covers include an Fe-Si alloy.

19. (New) The device according to claim 15, wherein the magnet covers each have a thickness between 0.2 mm and 1.5 mm.

20. (New) The device according to claim 19, wherein the magnet covers each have a thickness between 0.35 and 1 mm.

21. (New) The device according to claim 12, wherein the magnet parts are embodied as plate- or sheet-shaped.

22. (New) The device according to claim 12, further comprising a plane of symmetry and the device being constructed symmetrically with respect to the plane of symmetry.

23. (New) The device according to claim 12, wherein the armature body is rigidly connected to a pump plunger of a compressor.